

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-37 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 21 and 37 are amended by the present amendment.

Claim amendments find support in the specification as originally filed, at least at page 3, lines 9-11. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2, 21-27, 29, 31, 33-35 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,353,596 to Grossglauser et al. (herein "Grossglauser I") in view of Grossglauser, "SEAM: Scalable and Efficient ATM Multicast" (herein "Grossglauser II"); Claims 28, 30 and 32 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claims 1, 3-20 and 36 were allowed.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter and for the Examiner's Response to Arguments in the outstanding Office Action.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 2, 21-27, 29, 31, 33-35 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Grossglauser I and Grossglauser II, with respect to amended Claims 2, 21 and 37.

Amended Claim 2 is directed to an IPATM transmission network that supports multipoint-to-multipoint multi-casting between groups of endpoints. The network includes, *inter alia*, a plurality of nodes and a plurality of endpoints adapted to act as data senders or receivers, and means for building a single spanning delivery tree between at least one sender and all receivers that belong to a multi-casting group of endpoints. An endpoint in the multi-casting group of endpoints receives an address of a core from one of a plurality of MNS servers based on a message passed between at least two of the MNS servers. Claims 21 and 37 includes similar features.

In a non-limiting example, an IPATM transmission network according to the claimed invention includes, a hierarchy of multi-cast name service servers (MNS servers) (e.g. means for building a single spanning delivery tree). The MNS servers provide unused IP multi-cast addresses to nodes by passing queries between one another.¹

Thus, an IPATM transmission network or method of communicating therein according to the claimed invention advantageously overcomes a problem in conventional multi-cast routing protocols that use core based trees where advertising the location of the core to every multi-cast router is a largely unresolved problem.²

Applicant respectfully submits that Grossglauser I and Grossglauser II do not teach or suggest a network in which an endpoint receives a core address from an MNS server based on a message passed between MNS servers. Grossglauser I is silent regarding IP with respect to IP/ATM. Grossglauser II merely indicates that there is “a single virtual channel associated with each IP multicast address,”³ but does not describe endpoints that receive a core address from MNS servers based upon an interaction between the servers. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the combined disclosures of Grossglauser I and Grossglauser II, whether taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest “an endpoint in the multi-casting group of endpoints receives an address of a core from one of a plurality of MNS servers based on a message passed between at least two of the MNS servers,” as recited in independent Claim 2, and as similarly recited in independent Claims 21 and 37.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 2, 21 and 37 and claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

¹ Specification at page 11, lines 18-22.

² Specification at page 11, lines 7-10.

³ Grossglauser II at page 868, right column, lines 39-40.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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